

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium, comprising:

a first hot plug/hot swap interface for interfacing to a first host;

a second hot plug/hot swap interface for interfacing to a second host;

a storage interface for interfacing to said storage medium;

a control circuit for controlling access to said storage medium from said first host and said second host, so that, when only one of said first host and said second host is effectively interfaced with said apparatus, said storage medium is appended to said effectively interfaced host and said apparatus provides access to said storage medium from said effectively interfaced host, and when both said first host and said second host are effectively interfaced with said apparatus, said storage medium is appended to one of said first host and said second host and said apparatus provides bridging between said first host and said second host as well as access to said storage medium from both said first host and said second host; and

a buffer circuit interfaced with said first hot plug/hot swap interface, said second hot plug/hot swap interface and said storage interface so as to process data among said first host, said second host and said storage medium.

2. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein when both said first host and said second host are effectively interfaced with the apparatus, said storage medium is appended to the first effectively interfaced one of said first host and said second host.

3. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein said control circuit comprises a detecting circuit for detecting interface states of said first host and said second host and a switching circuit for switching the appending of said storage medium to said first host or to said second host.

4. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein said first hot plug/hot swap interface and said second hot plug/hot swap interface are USB (Universal Serial Bus) interfaces.

5. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein said first hot plug/hot swap interface and said second hot plug/hot swap interface are IEEE 1394 interfaces.

6. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a mass storage device.

7. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1,

wherein said storage medium is a memory device.

8. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a hard disk drive.

9. (Previously amended) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 1, wherein said buffer circuit is a FIFO (First-in First-out) unit.

10. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium, comprising:

a plurality of hot plug/hot swap interfaces for respectively interfacing to a plurality of hosts;
at least one storage interface for interfacing to at least one storage medium;

a control circuit for controlling access to said at least one storage medium from said plurality of hosts, so that, when only one of said plurality of hosts is effectively interfaced with said apparatus, said at least one storage medium is appended to said effectively interfaced host and said apparatus provides access to said at least one storage medium from said effectively interfaced host, and when two or more of said plurality of hosts are effectively interfaced with said apparatus, said at least one storage medium is appended to one of said effectively interfaced hosts and said apparatus provides bridging between said effectively interfaced hosts as well as access to said at least one storage medium from said effectively interfaced hosts; and

a buffer circuit interfaced with said plurality of hot plug/hot swap interfaces and said at least one storage interface so as to process data among said plurality of hosts and said at least one storage medium.

11. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said apparatus comprises a plurality of storage interfaces for interfacing to a plurality of storage media.

12. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, when two or more of said plurality of hosts are effectively interfaced with said apparatus, said at least one storage medium is appended to the first effectively interfaced one of said effectively interfaced hosts.

13. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said control circuit comprises a detecting circuit for detecting interface states of said plurality of hosts and a switching circuit for switching the appending of said at least one storage medium to said plurality of hosts.

14. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said plurality of hot plug/hot swap interfaces are USB (Universal Serial Bus) interfaces.

15. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said plurality of hot plug/hot swap interfaces are IEEE 1394 interfaces.

16. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said at least one storage medium is a mass storage device.

17. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said at least one storage medium is a memory device.

18. (Original) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein, said at least one storage medium is a hard disk drive.

19. (Previously Amended) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 10, wherein said buffer circuit is a FIFO (First-in First-out) unit.

20. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium, comprising:

a first connector for connecting to a first host, said first connector including a first hot plug/hot swap interface for interfacing to a first host;

a second connector including a second hot plug/hot swap interface for interfacing to a second host;

a cable having at one end a third connector for connecting to said second connector and at the other end a fourth connector for connecting to said second host;

a storage interface for interfacing to said storage medium;

a control circuit for controlling access to said storage medium from said first host and said second host, so that, when only one of said first host and said second host is effectively

interfaced with said apparatus, said storage medium is appended to said effectively interfaced host and said apparatus provides access to said storage medium from said effectively interfaced host, and when both said first host and said second host are effectively interfaced with said apparatus, said storage medium is appended to one of said first host and said second host and said apparatus provides bridging between said first host and said second host as well as access to said storage medium from both said first host and said second host; and

a buffer circuit interfaced with said first hot plug/hot swap interface, said second hot plug/hot swap interface and said storage interface so as to process data among said first host, said second host and said storage medium.

21. (Previously Amended) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 20, wherein said first, second, third and fourth connectors are USB (Universal Serial Bus) connectors.

22. (Previously Amended) The apparatus for multiple host access to a storage medium of claim 20, wherein said first, second, third and fourth connectors are IEEE 1394 connectors.